

IN THE CLAIMS:

Set forth below are the status of all claims currently in this application together with a text of the pending claims and a proposed revision of Claim 29.

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26. Cancelled.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for promoting growth of a fungus comprising applying to the fungus a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein hyphae of the fungus are proliferated.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of according to claim 27, wherein the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid contains a carbon atom constituting a ~~comprises a hydroxyl group of alcohol and a carbonyl group of ketone, said carbonyl group comprising and~~ a carbon atom connected to a ~~the~~ hydroxyl group, one of the above carbon atoms being located at the  $\alpha$  or  $\gamma$  position with respect to the other carbon atom atoms.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid contains one to six carbon-carbon double bonds, such that the number of the double bonds does not exceed the number of carbon-carbon bonds in the ketol fatty acid.

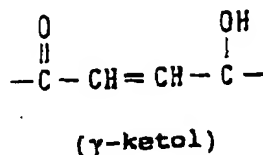
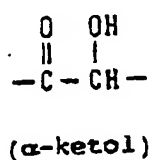
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the ketol fatty acid contains 18

carbon atoms, and two carbon-carbon double bonds.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid is 9-hydroxy-10-oxo-12 (*Z*),15 (*Z*)-octadecadienoic acid.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant respectfully requests amendment of Claim 29 as set forth herein. The proposed Claim 29 corresponds in substance to Claim 29 as originally allowed in the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004 with the exception of the expression "according to" in the preamble and the word "the" before "other carbon atom". In evaluating the scope of the invention, it is respectfully submitted that the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid recited in Claim 29 must include compound (I) which is  $\alpha$ -ketol, and compound (IV) which is  $\gamma$ -ketol as described on page 7 of the Specification herein and as shown below.



The proposed change is believed to more accurately describe the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> ketol fatty acid used in the method of the present invention.

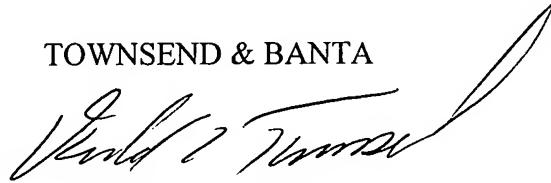
It is respectfully submitted that since the proposed Claim 29 hardly differs from the Claim 29 as originally allowed, that this would not require a further search or raise new issues concerning allowability of the claim. Instead, the proposed change would simply render more definite Claim 29, and present this claim using language closer to that as originally allowed in the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004.

**DOCKET NO. SHI-018-USA-PCT**

Since this amendment under Rule 1.312 would not raise new issues or require a further search, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the proposed amendment of Claim 29.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend', written in a cursive style.

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Date: December 6, 2004